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dropped in 1910 and another in 1911. There are 261 articles now included in the list.

For each article added, quotations were secured back to 1890. Tables for three of these were published in the appendix of the 1910 report, and for all in Appendix A of the 1911 report. The new articles are considered in the index number of 1910 and 1911, although there is no recalculation back to 1890 pending the probable addition of other articles. However, the difference has been tested for 1910 and 1911, and only a slight difference due to added articles was revealed. Where the basis of quotation has been altered the index number has been recalculated.

The experiment with weighted index numbers showed a 3-point less increase of the weighted number in 1910; but in 1911 there was practically no difference in the advance in weighted and unweighted numbers.

On the whole, relative prices have increased from 121 in 1909 to 124 in 1910 and 127.2 in 1911. There were 112 advancing, 48 declining, and 48 stationary prices in 1910; 124 advancing, 82 declining, and 67 stationary prices in 1911. The chief advances have been in raw products and foodstuffs, and related manufactured products.

On p. 56 of the 1910 report, and in Appendix B of the 1911 report, the statistics of output of gold are given. However, the connection between these statistics and price levels is left to be inferred or denied.

Appendix C of the 1911 report gives a comparative view of retail prices throughout Canada for 1910 and 1911; these prices of 30 articles were secured monthly by local correspondents of the Labor Gazette. The articles cover 80 per cent of a family budget, including rentals. The prices are averaged, and the results set forth in tables. It is the purpose of the Department to treat this matter in the same way as wholesale prices.

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*The Expedition of the Donner Party and Its Tragic Fate.* By ELIZA P. DONNER HOUGHTON. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1911. 8vo, pp. xxi+375. \$2.00 net.

Among the parties of emigrants who in early pioneer days took the perilous and wearisome journey across the continent to California none became more noted for its tragic experiences than the Donner party. Starting from Illinois in the spring of 1846 some eighty strong, the members of this party pushed their way on over the usual route along the Oregon trail and through South Pass. They then tried a cut-off to the south of Great Salt Lake, but were so delayed that they failed to reach the upper passes of the Sierras until the snows set in, making it impossible to go farther and forcing them to camp there for the winter. Snow buried them in, and they were soon face to face with starvation. As a last resort a band of fifteen, "the Forlorn Hope," made a desperate sally to reach the settlements over the mountains and summon aid, which they finally succeeded in doing, though not until half the band had

perished. In all three parties set forth to relieve the remainder of the Donner expedition encamped in the mountains. The rescued and often the rescuers endured the most frightful suffering. Reduced to subsisting on bark, shoe strings and hide, many starved, and eventually the bodies of the dead became the only hope for the living. Scarcely half the party survived to see the "Promised Land" for which they had set out.

To one who would understand the toil, the suffering, the courage, in short, the human element involved in the task of settling the country and preparing for the development of its resources, the account of this tragic episode in the westward movement will be well worth the reading. The author, a daughter of the party's leader, though scarcely four years of age at the time, had the events indelibly impressed upon her mind. To some extent she has relied on others' narratives but the greater part consists of her own recollections. These also cover her life in California down to the time of her marriage at the opening of the Civil War and give an excellent picture of the California of those days. It may be noted that on the controverted point whether or not Lewis Keseberg killed her mother the author generously absolves him of all guilt. Throughout this intimate and entertainingly written account we see a broad-minded, magnanimous, and sympathetic character.

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*Socialism and Character.* By VIDA D. SCUDDER. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1912. 8vo, pp. 431. \$1.50 net.

In this book, written by an avowed socialist—"a class-conscious, revolutionary socialist, if you will—to whom none the less the spiritual harvest, the fruits of character, are the only results worth noting in any economic order" (pp. 5-6), we have an attempt to harmonize socialism and religion. Though frankly idealistic and plainly disposed toward religion, Miss Scudder yet sees in socialism the only solution of "the dilemma" which faces the modern world. An aristocratic solution such as that of Nietzsche is impossible because "we are made on another pattern" (p. 50); the abandonment of civilization illustrated in the "anarchist asceticism" of Tolstoy "makes the Great Refusal, which is the refusal of life itself" (p. 50); moralizing in the form of philanthropy and reform has been tried and proved a failure—what promise of light is left if not in socialism?

But how dissolve the real differences between socialism and religion? The answer for Miss Scudder lies in a spiritualizing of the chief doctrines of socialism to which she subscribes, namely, economic determinism, and class-antagonism (for which latter she uses the word "class-feeling" as less harsh), and in a certain socializing of religion. But not only are these capable of being harmonized, they are in reality of the utmost importance the one to the other. "Should socialism," she says, "arrive otherwise than as the result of an inward transformation, affecting the deep springs of will and love, it would be the worst disaster . . . that the world has seen" (p. 187); and on the other hand, "religious minds honestly scanning the situation may well discern the